

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Monthly Report -- Panama Bureau

FROM:

Chief, Operations Group

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

December 1988

STAT

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

1.

C/Ops

18 Jan

[Signature]

2.

3.

C/E&PS

1/19

h

4.

DD/FBIS

19 Jan

B

5.

D/FBIS

✓

R

6.

7.

PO/RA

1/24 [Signature]

8.

SA/CD

1/25 [Signature]

9.

10. DC/AS

C/AS

1/26

[Signature]

11.

C/B&F/AS

1/30

[Signature]

12.

C/PRs

1/30

[Signature]

13.

14.

C/AG

[Signature]

15.

Exec. Reg.

FORM 1-79

610

USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

PANAMA BUREAU

DRAWER 927
APO MIAMI 34004

4 January 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- Panama Bureau -- December 1988

STAT

I. GENERAL

STAT

An FBA team comprising staffers [redacted] and Lockheed engineers [redacted] visited the bureau 4-17 December. During the visit, the team successfully installed new press agency software and conducted the associated training for editors, system administrators, and monitorial shift supervisors. The timing of the visit proved fortunate, as the team's tests of the system uncovered a problem with our fileserver's hard disk, which had to be replaced. Overall, the team termed the visit a success.

STAT

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. In response to a high-precedence request from the U.S. Embassy in Guatemala, the bureau provided the vernacular and a faxed copy of an item transmitted by CERIGUA, a Mexican press agency that covers Guatemalan rebel activity, on a peasant massacre that occurred in late November. According to the embassy, the CERIGUA item was instrumental in making a case that Guatemalan rebels, and not the Army, were responsible for the massacre.

2. One of the two English-language transmissions of the Cuban press agency, PRENSA LATINA, resumed without comment or explanation on 21 December after an absence of over a month. A major fire in mid-November had knocked out all international phone lines and press circuits, but all circuits except PRENSA LATINA English had returned within a week of the fire.

B. Communications

On 27 December, we successfully tested modem communication with headquarters.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Monitor [] was promoted from trainee status to FBN-7 effective 18 December. STAT

2. Monitor [] was promoted to FBN-8 effective 18 December. STAT

3. Main Radio boardmen [] and [] received well-deserved "Certificates of Appreciation" signed by U.S. Army South (USARSO) commander Major General Bernard Loeffke for support Main Radio provided various USARSO components over the past year. STAT
STAT

4. Shift supervisor [] attended Phase Two of the U.S. Army's Supervisor Development Program from 28 November to 2 December. The course covered personnel supervision, motivation, and task organization. [] had attended Phase One of the program last summer. STAT
STAT

B. Building and Grounds

Remodeling of the women's restroom was completed over the holidays.

IV. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

The bureau's annual outing to bring some Christmas cheer to the children of a selected village in Panama focused on the town of Cerro Azul, about an hour outside Panama City. As usual, the event was organized by Communications Section Deputy Chief [] with substantial assistance from senior monitor [] and the front office's [] who graciously [] STAT
STAT
STAT

STAT

offered her country home for the gathering. Many other bureau employees donated time, money, and effort and virtually all provided toys to make this outing one of the largest and most successful Christmas events yet. Despite some serious reveling during the previous night's annual Christmas party at the Panama City Holiday Inn, several hardy souls made the trip to Cerro Azul the morning of 18 December as bureau bus drivers [redacted] and [redacted] were kind enough to donate a bus and driving expertise, respectively, to provide transportation. In all, food and toys for 75 children and their parents were provided.

STAT
STAT

STAT

[redacted]
Chief, Panama Bureau